REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-36 are currently pending. Claims 37-73, previously withdrawn from consideration, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-20 and 22-36 have been rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections based upon the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 17-20, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Furuki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Furuki relates to a gas detector having an organic film in which an organic dye has been originally incorporated. The gas to be detected is adsorbed and an electronic interaction occurs with the dye molecule. The disclosure of Furuki regarding the interaction between the gas molecules and the dye is directed to a purely electronic interaction ("Furthermore, the gas sensitive thin film should be desirably such that gas molecules adsorbed cause an electronic interaction with the dye molecules in the thin film, and the intensity of fluorescence or phosphorescence changes reversibly." Column 5, lines 25-29). In essence, Furuki discloses a chemical species A that is altered in the electronic interaction only in its electronic structure. The altered electronic structure does not change the chemical species A in any other way, and for purposes of illustration only the altered chemical species will be referred to as chemical species A'.

In contrast, each of claims 1, 2, 6-9, 17-20, and 22-26 is directed to the presence of at least one reagent capable of undergoing a selective chemical interaction with a first chemical species to yield at least one optically detectable interaction product. The optically detectable interaction product comprises a second chemical species. Unlike Furuki, the claimed invention takes a first chemical species X and through chemical interaction obtains an optically detectable chemical species Y.

Furuki fails to teach or suggest "at least one reagent that is capable of undergoing a selective chemical interaction with said first chemical species to be detected to yield at least one optically detectable interaction product, said optically detectable interaction product comprising a second chemical species" as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Furuki does not

disclose each and every limitation of each of claims 1, 2, 6-9, 17-20, and 22-26 and thus does not anticipate these claims.

Claims 5, 10-16, and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki in view of Ebersole. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The arguments provided above with regard to the § 102 rejection are equally pertinent to this rejection. Specifically, Furuki does not teach or suggest "at least one reagent that is capable of undergoing a selective chemical interaction with said first chemical species to be detected to yield at least one optically detectable interaction product, said optically detectable interaction product comprising a second chemical species" as recited in claims 1 (from which claims 10-16 and 31-35 depend) and 36.

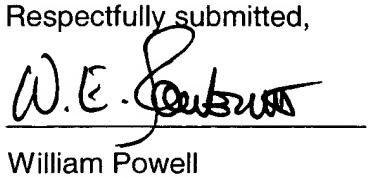
Claims 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki in view of Ebersole and Friedman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 26-30 depend from claim 1. As pointed out above, neither Furuki nor Ebersole teaches or suggests "at least one reagent that is capable of undergoing a selective chemical interaction with said first chemical species to be detected to yield at least one optically detectable interaction product, said optically detectable interaction product comprising a second chemical species" as recited in claim 1. Friedman is relied upon in the Office action as teaching the detection of halogenated hydrocarbons which react with pyridine or alkyl-substituted compounds of pyridine to yield colored products in the presence of a strong base. Friedman provides no meaningful disclosure related to "at least one reagent that is capable of undergoing a selective chemical interaction with said first chemical species to be detected to yield at least one optically detectable interaction product, said optically detectable interaction product comprising a second chemical species".

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the currently pending claims at an early date is solicited. If the Applicants can be of any assistance in

advancing this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney whose telephone number is indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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